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become somewhat antiquated before the last volumes appear. But the present slow method is the only one practicable where the one editor must carefully plan and supervise the whole, and it no doubt suits better the financial exigencies of many poor scholars who can pay for two volumes a year, but who would not feel able to purchase the entire work, or several volumes, at once. Each volume will be better and more consistent when it appears singly, and with a considerable interval between its predecessor and its successor, than if several volumes were being hurried along concurrently. To mention the contributors would be to give a list of the most eminent specialists. Hauck himself writes many articles, especially in his own field of early German church history. Harnack writes many patristic articles and sketches of the early Roman emperors. Loofs, who is unsurpassed in general history of doctrine, writes many elaborate articles in this department. The weakest feature of the work, in the reviewer's opinion, is the *Anabaptistica*, few of the articles being by the most competent writers, and the point of view of the writers being far below the high standard of impartiality that many of the most eminent investigators have reached. The articles on biblical introduction and biblical criticism are particularly full and scholarly, and represent neither extreme radicalism nor extreme conservatism. Every minister and theological student who can read German should have this great work as a daily companion. It is worth a whole library of inferior works of reference.

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THE ENGLISH BIBLE IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY 1525 TO 1640. With 26 Facsimiles and 39 Engravings. [By REV. RICHARD LOVETT, M.A.] Printed for Private Circulation, 1899. Pp. xvi + 275, folio.

THIS well-printed and finely illustrated volume, by the author of a useful little manual on *The Printed English Bible, 1525-1885*, and editor of Demaus' life of Tyndale, is apparently carefully prepared. The avowed ideal of its author has been "to make it the best catalogue of English Bibles in existence," and, judging from its extensive and elaborate descriptions, it is certainly entitled to take rank with the well-known critical works of Francis Fry. It is to be regretted, however, that the edition is limited to something in the neighborhood of eighty copies, which makes it quite unavailable, even to specialists.

The bibliography presents a detailed account of forty-five Bibles, twenty New Testaments, and Tyndale's very rare Pentateuch (1534-30) —all printed prior to 1641; as well as a description of Francis Fry's facsimile of Tyndale's New Testament (1525), and an original copy of Caxton's *Golden Legende* (1483).

The John Rylands Library, of Manchester, England, was already exceptionally strong in this department when, in 1892, it absorbed the famous Althorp Library. Lord Spencer's collection, however, was singularly weak in English Bibles and Testaments, and only its very choicest exemplars were needed to fill certain serious gaps. These books, not to speak of their very great rarity, are usually very choice copies—a fact which adds immeasurably to their importance. But judged by its size and the number of editions, the collection cannot vie with that of the New York Public Library (Lenox Library Building), nor with that of the British Museum.

The New York Public Library has fully four times as many English Bibles, etc., for the period before 1641, and the British Museum is a close second. This estimate does not include their duplicates and copies with variations, of which no account is taken, and of which they have many. The New York Public Library has copies of all the Rylands books save three: (1) Tyndale's Pentateuch, 1534-30; the 1534 edition of Genesis, but it possesses the other four parts dated 1530, as well as the 1530 edition of the first part; (2) Coverdale's New Testament, Antwerp, 1539, which is excessively rare; and (3) the New Testament of 1579, printed by Christopher Barker, which does not count very materially.

Caxton's *Golden Legende* (1483) is, of course, included because it is the earliest printed volume in which verses of the Bible appear in the English vernacular. The following check-list of Bibles in the Rylands collection printed prior to 1550 will serve to show its character:

- Tyndale's Pentateuch. Marburg, 1534-30.
- Tyndale's New Testament. Antwerp, 1534.
- Coverdale's Bible. [Zürich?], 1535.
- Tyndale's New Testament. Antwerp, 1536; 8vo.
- Tyndale's New Testament. ("Mole" edition.) Antwerp, 1536; 4to.
- Tyndale's New Testament. ("Blank Stone" edition.) Antwerp, 1536; 4to.
- Matthew's Bible. Antwerp, 1537.
- Coverdale's Bible. London, 1537; folio.
- Coverdale's Bible. London, 1537; 4to.
- Matthew's New Testament. London, 1538.
- Coverdale's New Testament. London, 1538.

- Coverdale's New Testament. Paris : Fraunces Regnault, 1538 ; 8vo.  
 Coverdale's New Testament. (Johan Hollybushe Testament.) London, 1538.  
 Coverdale's New Testament. Antwerp, 1539.  
 Taverner's Bible. London, 1539.  
 Great Bible. Paris and London, April, 1539.  
 Great Bible. London, April, 1540.  
 Great Bible. London, July, 1540.  
 Great Bible. London, November, 1540.  
 Great Bible. London, May, 1541.  
 Great Bible. London : Whitchurche, 1549.  
 Bible (mainly Matthew's 1537 text). London : Daye & Seres, 1549.  
 Bible (verbatim reprint of Matthew's text of 1537). London : Raynalde & Hyll, 1549.  
 New Testament. London : Powell, 1549.  
 New Testament. [London ?], 1549.

VICTOR H. PALTSITS.

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY.

DIE MASSORAH DER ÖSTLICHEN UND WESTLICHEN SYRER IN IHREN ANGABEN ZUM PROPHETEN JESAIA; nach fünf Handschriften des British Museum in Verbindung mit zwei Tractaten über Accente herausgegeben und bearbeitet. Von GUSTAV DIETRICH, Pfarrer der deutschen evangelischen Gemeinde zu Sydenham. London, Edinburgh, and Oxford : Williams & Norgate, 1899. Pp. vii + 134. 8s. 6d.

THE author of this work is engaged in the preparation of a critical edition of the Edessene version of Isaiah, and he has already collated the larger part and the most valuable of the manuscripts found in European libraries. The present publication offers the material contained in five manuscripts in the British Museum, without any discussion of their text-critical value. Of these MSS. one is Nestorian, the others are Jacobite. Because of its provenance and its importance for the history of accentuation, the Nestorian codex is published in full, with but slight deviations, for typographical reasons, from the original. The tradition of the Jacobite codices is given in footnotes to the text wherever they seemed of importance to the editor. Except for a few corrections and additions by a certain Sisin, the Nestorian codex is the work of Mar Babi, and was completed in the monastery of Mar Gabriel, near Harran, in the year 899. What renders this manuscript so valuable for the history of accentuation is the fact that Mar Babi not only presents us with the system in vogue at the end of the ninth century